

**2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE  
The United Methodist Church**

**The following 32 amendments to the constitution of The United Methodist Church were passed at the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas. The vote totals from the General Conference votes are recorded with each amendment. Each amendment must be ratified by the Annual Conferences and approved by a 2/3 majority of all the votes cast. Each vote of the Annual Conference must be counted and submitted to the General Conference.**

**Following each proposed amendment is a rationale for the amendment. Debate is permitted on the amendments, but NO CHANGES may be made to the proposed amendments. The vote will be for or against the proposed amendments, as written.**

**Voting instructions will be given at the appropriate time at Annual Conference. Please pay attention to the instructions.**

**Amendments III, IV, V, VII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, and XXXII are all part of the Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church proposal. The rationale is identical for these amendments. Although the amendments have the same purpose, each of them will be voted on individually.**

**Amendments V and VI are both for ¶ 15. Amendments VII and VIII are both for ¶ 16, but for different subparagraphs. Amendments XIV and XV are both for ¶ 32. Amendments XVI and XVII are both for ¶ 33. Amendments XIX and XX are both for ¶ 35.**

**Discipline paragraphs refer to the 2004 *Book of Discipline*.**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 558 Yes, 276 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 4, Article IV, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 4, Article IV)) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

**CHANGES:**

After “worth” add “and that we are in ministry to all” and after “persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition” and after “sacraments,” add

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“and” and after “members” delete “, and” and insert a period and add “All persons,” and after “faith” add “and relationship in Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to” and after “body” delete “of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 (¶ 4) would read:

**Inclusiveness of the Church — The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth and that we are in ministry to all. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, and upon baptism be admitted as baptized members. All persons, upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith and relationship in Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body.**

*Rationale: I. The proposed amendment emphasizes the wideness of God’s mercy and the availability of the ministry of the church to all.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 744 Yes, 86 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, following ¶ 5, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, following ¶ 5, *Article V*)) amend by addition as follows:

#### **CHANGES:**

Add a new paragraph “All official organizations, groups, committees, councils, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall adopt ethics and conflict of interest policies, applicable to both members and employees, which embody and live out our Christian values.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, the new paragraph would read:

**All official organizations, groups, committees, councils, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall adopt ethics and conflict of interest policies, applicable to both members and employees, which embody and live out our Christian values.**

*Rationale: II. The proposed amendment requires the adoption of ethics and conflict of interest policies to ensure accountability and fiduciary integrity.*

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 9, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 9, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Delete “central” before conference and add “regional”. At the end of the paragraph, add the parenthetical note, “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 9 (¶ 9) would read:

**There shall be jurisdictional conferences for the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth; *provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional or regional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)***

*Rationale: III. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 593 Yes, 295 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 10, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 10, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional”, and delete “for the church outside the United States of America” before “and” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

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If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 10 (¶ 10) would read:

**There shall be regional conferences and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: IV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 15, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 15, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

CHANGES:

Add “regional and” before “jurisdictional” and delete “and central” before “conferences”, delete “central” before “conference”, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 15 (¶15) would read:

**The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, regional and jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference, and the missionary conference, *provided* that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: V. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VI**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 690 Yes, 165 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 15, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 15, *Article III*) amend by addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Add at the end of the paragraph, “Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 15 (¶ 15) would read:

**The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, jurisdictional, and central conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference; *provided* that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or central conference. Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: VI. The proposed amendment allows for representation in the General Conference at other than proportional levels during a transitional period for the admission of an annual conference into the United Methodist Church.*

**If both Amendments V and VI are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:**

**The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, regional and jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference, and the missionary conference, *provided* that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General**

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**Conference and also in the jurisdictional or regional conference. Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

CHANGES:

In ¶ 16.3 and 16.10 delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional”, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the 16.10.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 16.3 and .10 (¶ 16.3 and .10) would read:

**3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of regional conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.**

**10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: VII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VIII**

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*On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 804 Yes, 39 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

In ¶ 16.1 and .14 add “, gender” after “race”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 16.1 and .14 (¶ 16.1 and .14) would read:

**1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of Church membership, which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender or status.**

**14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all agencies, programs, and institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender or status.**

*Rationale: VIII. The proposed amendment would add “gender” to those categories of persons protected in this list of duties of General Conference.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IX**

*On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 821 Yes, 50 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 23, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 23, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Add “, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates” before the period at the end of the first sentence.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 23 (¶ 23) would read:

**The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the General Conference, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.**

*Rationale: IX. The proposed amendment would ensure a minimum basis of support for the*

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*election of bishops at jurisdictional conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – X**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 649 Yes, 195 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

CHANGES:

Delete “Central” before “Conferences” and add “Regional” before “Conferences” in the heading of Section V.

Delete “shall” before “be” and add “may” before “be” and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” and delete “outside the United States of America” before “with” in the first sentence. Delete the second sentence. Delete “Subsequently” at the beginning of the third sentence and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the third and fourth sentences, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, the heading of Section V and ¶ 28 (¶ 28) would read:

### **Section V. Regional Conferences**

**¶ 28. *Article I.*-There may be regional conferences for the work of the Church with such duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. The General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences. The regional conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

**Rationale: X.** The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XI**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church*

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*held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 29, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 29, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first sentence and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 29 (¶ 29) would read:

**The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 749 Yes, 119 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 30, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 30, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first sentence. Delete the second sentence and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 30 (¶ 30) would read:

**The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

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*Rationale: XII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 544 Yes, 252 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 31, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 31, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

#### **CHANGES:**

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first sentence.

Add “In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences,” at the beginning of ¶ 31.2 and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences.” Add “In those regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional conferences.”

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in ¶ 31.3, .6, and .7 and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 31 (¶ 31) would read:

**The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:**

**1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.**

**2. In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, to elect the bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference. In those regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional conferences.**

**3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to**

elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the boundaries of the annual conferences within their respective areas.
5. To make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the General Discipline as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.
6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional conference Discipline enacted by the regional conference.
7. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that regional conference from the decision of a committee on trial. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

*Rationale: XIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

#### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIV**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph. In a separate action on ¶ 35, an editorial change was proposed to replace “probationary members” with “provisional members” wherever the term appears in the constitution.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

**The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses and**

home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the regional conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

*Rationale: XIV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XV**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 718 Yes, 117 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

CHANGES:

Delete everything in the first paragraph following “shall be composed of” and add “lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

**The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election.**

**If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.**

*Rationale: XV. The proposed amendment allows definition of the lay and clergy membership of the annual conference by the General Conference without going through the constitutional amendment process. This portion of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (Section VI, Article I of the Constitution) has been amended 16 times since 1968.*

**If both Amendments XIV and XV are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:**

**The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election.**

**If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.**

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVI**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Add “, regional” following “General” and before “and” and delete “the” before “jurisdictional” and delete “or central” before “conferences” in the first sentence. Add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

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If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 33 (¶ 33) would read:

**The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General, regional and jurisdictional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XVI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 812 Yes, 49 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*) amend by addition, as follows:

CHANGES:

Add “and the committee on investigation” following “ministry.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 33 (¶ 33) would read:

**The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General and the jurisdictional or central conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the**

**Constitution may determine.**

*Rationale: XVII. The proposed amendment would make supporting constitutional changes to allow reinstatement of legislation adopted by the 2004 General Conference and subsequently declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council to allow lay persons on the committee on investigation to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.*

**If both Amendments XVI and XVII are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:**

**The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General, regional, and jurisdictional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVIII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

**In** the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

Following “jurisdictional” delete “or central” and add “and regional”, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 (¶ 34) would read:

**The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional and regional conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected**

**to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional and regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional and regional conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XVIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIX**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 696 Yes, 135 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Before “delegates” delete “ordained ministerial” and add “clergy” and before “from” delete “by and” and before “members” delete “ordained ministerial” and before “members” add “clergy” and before “the annual” delete “with” and before “the annual” add “and shall be elected by the clergy members of” and after “or provisional annual conference” add “who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 35 (¶ 35) would read:

**The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members**

**who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.**

*Rationale: XIX. The proposed amendment would allow additional clergy members to participate in the election of clergy delegates to general, jurisdictional or central conferences.*

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XX**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

Delete “or central” following “jurisdictional” and add “and regional” following “jurisdictional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 35 (¶ 35) would read:

**The ordained ministerial delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional and regional conference shall be elected by and from the ordained ministerial members in full connection with the annual conference or provisional annual conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”**

*Rationale: XX. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

**If both Amendments XIX and XX are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:**

**The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or regional conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXI**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 36, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 36, *Article V*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Delete “and” before “jurisdictional” and delete “or central” before “conferences” and add “and regional” before “conferences” in the first clause, delete “or central” before “conferences” and add “and regional” before conferences in the last clause and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 36 (¶ 36) would read:

**The lay delegates to the General, jurisdictional and regional conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age; *provided* such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional and regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXII**

*On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 757 Yes, 27 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:

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### CHANGES:

Before “Connecticut” add “Bermuda”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 37 (¶ 37) would read:

**The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:  
Northeastern-Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.**

**Southeastern-Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.**

**North Central-Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.**

**South Central-Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.**

**Western-Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.**

*Rationale: XXII. The proposed amendment formally recognizes that the Baltimore-Washington Conference has been appointing pastors, superintending the congregations and integrating the congregations of Bermuda into the life of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The General Board of Global Ministries and the Baltimore-Washington Conference recognize these churches as United Methodist congregations.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 590 Yes, 255 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 38, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 38, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

### CHANGES:

After “Church” delete “outside the United States of America” and after “into” delete “central” and after “into” add “regional” and after “determined” delete “by the Uniting Conference,” and after “Conference” delete “having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional”

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takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 38 (¶ 38) would read:

**The work of the Church may be formed into regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIV**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:

**Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas may be effected by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the regional conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXIV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXV**

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*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and before “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 (¶ 46) would read:

**The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and regional conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each regional conference for those elected by such regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVI**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 560 Yes, 275 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 48, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 48, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Before “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and following “Bishops” delete “, and such” and following “Bishops” add “In regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, the jurisdictional colleges shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions within their jurisdictions. In regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, the regional conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

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If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 48 (¶ 48) would read:

**The bishops of each jurisdictional and regional conference shall constitute a College of Bishops. In regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, the jurisdictional colleges shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions within their jurisdictions. In regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, the regional conference College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXVI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 246 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 49, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 49, *Article V*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

In the first sentence, before “conferences” delete “ or central” and before “conferences” add “and regional” and in the first sentence of the second paragraph delete “central” before “conference” and add “regional” before “conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 49 (¶ 49) would read:

**The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional and regional conferences in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically**

consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference. A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop; *provided* that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or regional conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or regional conference to the work of the said jurisdiction or regional conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

*Rationale: XXVII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVIII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, Article VI, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, Article VI) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

In the third sentence, delete “central” before “conference” and add “regional” before “conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 (¶ 50) would read:

**The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.**

**The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected**

by a regional conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing him shall have determined.

The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

*Rationale: XXVIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

#### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIX**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 51, *Article VII*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 51, *Article VII*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

CHANGES:

Delete “central” before “or jurisdictional” and add “regional” before “or jurisdictional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 51 (¶ 51) would read:

**A bishop presiding over an annual, regional, or jurisdictional conference shall decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session; *provided* that such questions be presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference.**

**Such an episcopal decision shall not be authoritative except for the pending case until it shall have been passed upon by the Judicial Council. All decisions of law made by each bishop shall be reported in writing annually, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council, which shall affirm, modify, or reverse them. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

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*Rationale: XXIX. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXX**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 52, *Article VIII*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 52, *Article VIII*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

Delete “central” after “jurisdictional and” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional and” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 52 (¶ 52) would read:

**The bishops of the several jurisdictional and regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXX. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXXI**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Four, ¶ 56, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Four, ¶ 56, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
CHANGES:

Delete “central” after “jurisdictional or” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional or” and delete “central” after “jurisdictional or a” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional or a” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 56 (¶ 56) would read:

**The Judicial Council shall have authority:**

- 1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a jurisdictional or regional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdictional or regional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that jurisdictional or regional conference.**
- 2. To hear and determine any appeal from a bishop's decision on a question of law made in the annual conference when said appeal has been made by one-fifth of that conference present and voting.**
- 3. To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in annual conferences.**
- 4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board or jurisdictional or regional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a jurisdictional or a regional conference.**
- 5. To have such other duties and powers as may be conferred upon it by the General Conference.**
- 6. To provide its own methods of organization and procedure. (The change in name from "central" to "regional" takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXXI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXXII**

*On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.*

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶ 61, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶ 61, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

**CHANGES:**

Delete "central" after "jurisdictional or" and add "regional" after "jurisdictional or" and add "(The change in name from "central" to "regional" takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)" at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 61 (¶ 61) would read:

**A jurisdictional or regional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)**

*Rationale: XXXII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.*